

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 TRSE-00 OMB-01 EB-07 COME-00
/081 W

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R 101337Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1053
DOD/DIA WASHDC
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
DOD/G A WASHDC
COMMANDANT NWC WASHDC
AMCONSUL IBADAN
AMCONSUL KADUNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 5307

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, MASS, NI, UR, US
SUBJECT: NATIONAL DEFENSE UNIVERSITY VISIT: DANJUMA COMPARES NIGERIAN

MILITARY RELATIONS
WITH U.S. AND USSR

1. IN REMARKABLY FORTHRIGHT AND CANDID PRESENTATION OF NIGERIAN
ARMY ATTITUDES TOWARD SOVIET AND WESTERN ARMS SUPPLY AND TRAINING
RELATIONSHIPS WITH NIGERIAN MILITARY, ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF LT.
GENERAL DANJUMA TOLD AMBASSADOR EASUM AND VISITING WAR COLLEGE
TEAM MAY 6 THAT RELATIONSHIP WITH U.S. ON BALANCE FAR MORE
SATISFACTORY THAN RELATIONSHIP WITH USSR. HE SAID THAT RUSSIANS
ARE "OBSESSED WITH SECRECY," OBLIGING NIGERIAN STUDENTS TO TURN
IN ALL PAPERS, BOOKS, TRAINING MATERIALS, ETC. PRIOR TO RETURNING
TO NIGERIA. MOST PERSONAL NOTES ARE ROUTINELY TAKEN AWAY FROM
NIGERIAN STUDENTS, SOMETIMES AT AIRPORT WHEN THEY DEPART.
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NIGERIA HAD OBJECTED TO SOVIET AUTHORITIES BOTH IN MOSCOW AND
IN LAGOS, BUT DESPITE APLOGIES THE PRACTICE CONTINUES. DANJUMA
SAID HE WOULD CONTINUE TO PRESS.

2. AS FOR SUPPLY OF SPARE PARTS AND OTHER EQUIPMENT, DANJUMA
WAS HIGHLY CRITICAL OF DIFFICULTIES IN DEALING WITH THE USSR AS
COMPARED WITH U.S. SUPPLIERS. HE SAID THAT NOTHING WAS AVAILABLE

FROM THE SOVIETS "OFF THE SHELF," NOR WAS IT EASY TO OBTAIN CATALOGS, SPECIFICATIONS, ETC. CONCERNING SUCH MATERIAL AND PARTS "EVERYTHING IS CLASSIFIED." FURTHERMORE, GOVERNMENT TO GOVERNMENT AGREEMENTS OFTEN PROVIDED HIGHLY COMPLICATED AND GENERALLY UNSATISFACTORY. AS AN EXAMPLE HE CITED AN AGREEMENT THAT PROVIDED FOR THE SALE OF A WEAPON BUT OMITTED ANY REFERENCE TO THE FUSES. WHEN NIGERIANS RAISED THE QUESTION, THEY WERE TOLD A SEPARATE AGREEMENT WOULD BE NECESSARY TO COVER THE FUSES. BY CONTRAST, DANJUMA SAID THAT ONCE THE U.S. GOVERNMENT AGREES THAT A SALE CAN BE MADE, PRIVATE ENTERPRISE TAKES OVER AND THERE ARE NO PROBLEMS.

3. ON THE OTHER HAND, DANJUMA SAID THAT TRAINING PROVIDED TO NIGERIANS IN THE SOVIET UNION WAS OF HIGH QUALITY. HE SAID THAT SOVIET INSTRUCTORS GENERALLY SPEAK ENGLISH AND "ARE VERY PATIENT WITH US". EVEN WHEN WORKING THROUGH INTERPRETERS, THE INSTRUCTION WAS GENERALLY EXCELLENT. HE WAS EQUALLY HIGH ON THE CALIBER OF INSTRUCTION GIVEN IN THE U.S., ALTHOUGH CRITICAL OF VIRTUALLY UNIFORM HIGH SCORES GIVEN TO THE PERFORMANCE OF NIGERIAN TRAINEES. DANJUMA SAID NIGERIA SENT BOTH GOOD AND BAD OFFICERS FOR SUCH TRAINING AND HE HOPED THAT THE U.S. SCHOOLS WOULD EVALUATE THEIR PERFORMANCE IN THE SAME CRITICAL FASHION AS DO SIMILAR SCHOOLS TRAINING NIGERIANS IN AUSTRALIA, INDIA, PAKISTAN, CANADA AND BRITAIN.

4. DANJUMA'S COMMENTS CONCERNING THE COMPLEXITIES OF DEALING WITH THE USSR FOR SPARE PARTS AND MATERIEL SUPPLIES WERE SECONDED BY AIR FORCE GROUP CAPTAIN ALEIDENO
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NAVY COMMODORE KENTEBBE WAS EVEN MORE STRAIGHTFORWARD, REJECTING THE UTILITY OF VIRTUALLY ANY ASSOCIATION BY THE NIGERIAN NAVY WITH THE SOVIET UNION. HE SAID THAT THE NIGERIAN NAVY WAS BROUGHT UP "IN THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING TRADITION" AND WOULD REMAIN THAT WAY, "AT LEAST FOR THE PRESENT GENERATION."
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Sent Date: 10-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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